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EDGAR SNOWDEN.

ALEXANDRIA:

THURSDAY MORNING, SEPTEMBER 1, 1859.

The Richmond Enquirer reviews at length Senator Douglas's late exposition of his doctrine of "popular sovereignty," and comes to the conclusion, that so far as the great question of principle is involved, there is no material difference between Douglas and Seward.—Mr. Seward holding that Congress may rightfully exclude slave property from the territories, Mr. Douglas contending that this power resides in the local authorities of each territory—and that Douglas cannot now get a single Southern vote in the Charleston Convention. The Richmond Whig also, rejects and repudiates Douglas's doctrine, as utterly subversive of the rights of the South.

The Richmond Enquirer says that "no man in Virginia can be found now, who will advocate Douglas's doctrines through the press, or on the hustings." But, in proportion as Douglas loses ground with the *Democracy* in the South, his friends declare that he gains strength with the *Democracy* in the North and West. How is this, if the Democratic party be "national," "indivisible," &c., &c.?

Mr. Everett's thirty-seventh paper in the New York Ledger, is on Braddock's expedition, and incidents connected with it. We can very well imagine that Mr. Everett wishes this to be the 52d paper, instead of the 37th. He must be tired of his bargain with the New York Ledger! Nothing but the consciousness of laboring for what he regards as a patriotic purpose, could sustain him under the infliction.

Hon. Edward Bates of Missouri, in a letter to the Opposition party in Tennessee, congratulates them upon their recent successes in that state, and urges them to press onward in the organization of a great conservative party, which he trusts will yet triumph, and restore peace and harmony to the excited sections, moderation and justice to the government, and prosperity and honor to the nation.

If the letters from Paris speak true, never were the police of that city more vigilant, than on the occasion of the recent triumphal entry of the Army, when the Emperor had, of course, to be present. It is said that every house on the streets through which the procession passed, was examined by the police, and had police spies in it, to detect any attempt to make a disturbance, or to fire from the windows.

Hon. Henry W. Davis has been nominated by the American Congressional Convention, for re-election to Congress from the Fourth Congressional District in Maryland. The vote stood in the Convention, for Davis 35—for Yellott 15. Subsequently Mr. D.'s nomination was made unanimous.

We have received from Harper & Brothers, New York, Mr. John Estlin Cooke's new novel—"Henry St. John, gentlemen, of Flower of Hundreds, in the county Prince George, Virginia—a tale of 1774-75. We shall take occasion at another time to notice it more particularly.

There has been another case of Lynch law, recently, near Springfield, Missouri. A negro had committed an outrage upon a respectable white woman—he was arrested and indicted, the Court being in session—but before he could be tried, a crowd seized him, and hung him.

Complaints are made of the unruly conduct of the French army, recently returned to France from Italy. The Zouaves, especially, are found to be troublesome customers, and particularly addicted to stealing.

Letters from commercial houses at Nagasaki, Japan, to June 5th, make no mention of any disturbance or trouble with American shipping, as reported by telegraph. On the contrary, everything was going on harmoniously.

The Treasurer of the New York State Colonization Society, acknowledges the receipt of twenty-five thousand dollars, being a donation from a friend, towards a College endowment in Africa.

At the recent commencement of Emory College, Oxford, Ga., the degree of Doctor of Laws was conferred on the Hon. Henry Stanbury, of Ohio; and Professor N. C. Brooks, President of the Baltimore Female College.

The Major A. J. Donelson, who died recently at Lafourche, La., was not Andrew Jackson Donelson, the adopted son of Gen. Jackson.

The newspapers in the South, almost everywhere, speak of the increased value of servants, and of the very high prices at which they are sold.

The camp-meeting in Lancaster county, Virginia, has closed with 70 converts. Rev. H. H. Gary, agent for the Book Society, at Nashville, collected \$1,300 for it.

The foundation stone of Mr. Spurgeon's new Tabernacle, was laid in London on the 17th ult., in the presence of 3,000 spectators.

The Democracy of Fayette county, in public meeting, have declared in favor of Gov. Wise for the Presidency.

Complaints begin to be made in Richmond, and other places, of the "stringency" of the Banks, in the matter of discounts.

The widow of the late Gen. Quitman died at her residence in Mississippi, last week.

There was a great Fancy Ball at the White Sulphur Springs, last week.

The triumphal entry into Paris of the army of Italy, took place on the 14th ult., and passed off with great eclat. The streets were crowded to excess, and the decorations and illuminations in the evening were on a grand scale. The Emperor and his staff headed the procession along the Boulevards from the Bastille to the Place Vendôme, and were greeted with loud acclamations. The Emperor and the Prince Imperial were stationed at the Place Vendôme, and on arriving there the Emperor took up a position in front of the Imperial Guard, and the troops marched on. The defection of the troops at the Palace Vendôme, commenced at half-past ten, and terminated at half-past two. The soldiers bearing the standards taken from the enemy were received with ovations. The flags of those regiments which were torn by the enemy's fire, excited the population to enthusiastic cheers. The weather was fine, and the spectacle imposing, but somewhat monotonous.

A meeting of Democrats was held at the Lyceum Hall, in New Orleans, on the night of the 24th ult., for the purpose of taking preliminary steps to nominate a ticket for State officers in opposition to the one adopted at the Baton Rouge Convention last May, and which is generally known as the Slidell ticket. On motion, a committee of three were appointed to draft resolutions expressive of the sense of the meeting. The committee presented to the meeting resolutions to the effect that the meeting cordially unite with the Opposition throughout the State in the adoption of any measure and in support of any ticket in opposition to that nominated at Baton Rouge in May last; and that the meeting recommend the Opposition to organize at once and appoint delegates without delay, to meet in convention at New Orleans, on the second Monday in September, to agree upon candidates to be supported upon the Opposition ticket.

Major John Biddle, a brother of the late Nicholas Biddle, died suddenly of apoplexy at the White Sulphur Springs, Va., on the 25th ult. He was advanced in years, and had but recently returned from Europe.—He was born and educated in Philadelphia, and in the year 1812 entered the United States Army, in which he established a high reputation as an officer during the war with Great Britain. At its close, he remained in the peace establishment. After many years service upon our western frontier, he retired from the Army, and fixed his residence at Detroit, Michigan. There he held several public positions, among those of delegate to Congress, Indian Agent, and Register of the Land Office.

We have by late arrivals some interesting intelligence from Venezuela. President Castro had been seized and compelled to surrender the Presidency by the Constitutional party, after which he was thrown into prison, and a close guard of one hundred men set over him to watch his movements. Some severe fighting had occurred, resulting in the triumph of the constitutionalists. The country was in the utmost alarm, and the general expectation was that some sanguinary engagements were about to occur. Three thousand men were under arms at Caracas, resolved to deliver their country from the federalists, or to die in the attempt.

The intelligence from the island of Jamaica, received by the New York Herald, is important. Rioting, lawlessness, and bloodshed seem to have become the normal condition of the people. The anniversary of emancipation was celebrated by a scene of turbulence and riot, in the course of which several persons met their death. Quiet had been temporarily restored, but no one could say how long it would last. The Governor of the island, like most of his predecessors, was rapidly growing unpopular. Former Governors have had to contend with the planters; the present one, Mr. Darling, has to fight his battles with the medical fraternity.

An engineer was walking on the levee at St. Louis one day last week, when a nimble thief snatched his watch, a valuable gold hunter, and ran off at a speed that bid fair to defy pursuit. It happened, however, that the party robbed had with him a large Newfoundland dog, and instead of troubling himself by running he spoke a few words confidently to his four-footed companion.—Off started the noble animal, and before the thief had gone many blocks he was dragged to the earth, and secured by his singular captor. The fellow thought fit to submit to the warrant displayed—two full rows of formidable teeth—and made no resistance to the majesty of the law.

At Salem, a prisoner confined in the jail, has brought an action against the deputy sheriff for opening a letter addressed to him. The case is one of interest, as it involves the right of officers to continue the practice of opening and reading convicts' letters. The Salem Journal says: "The result of this case will therefore be looked for with interest, and not the least interested parties will be the prisoners themselves; for if it is decided that their letters cannot be opened and read, the officers of the law can entirely prohibit their receiving letters. The theory of the law is that convicts are dead to the world during their incarceration."

A general order has recently been issued by the Secretary of the Navy, in which he states that no order will be given to medical officers of the navy to render professional aid to any one who is not attached to the naval service or on board a ship-of-war.—The department will confide to their humanity, to respond to any appeal for their assistance, whenever the requisite aid cannot be obtained elsewhere. An exception may be made in favor of vessels in distress, when it is necessary to secure the requisite medical aid, the authority of the master may be interposed.

The ninth annual festival of the United German Turners, commenced in Baltimore on Saturday afternoon, and will continue during a greater portion of the present week. The association is composed of representatives from the different Turner Societies throughout the country, and the attendance heretofore at these Turners' Association of Baltimore, is composed of about three hundred members, exclusive of one hundred and fifty scholars under the age of eighteen.

The members of the family of Mr. Hewlett Peters, of New York, consisting of five adults and four children, were all poisoned on Monday evening, while partaking of tea. The prompt application of remedies, however, prevented fatal consequences, and upon investigation it was ascertained that arsenic had been mixed with the sugar used in the tea, by whom it was so mixed, could not be conjectured.

The committee appointed by the Mayor of Cincinnati, to investigate the condition of milk offered for sale in that city, have made a report, showing that the milk of the Queen City is quite as bad as that of New York.

A gentleman of Clarksburg (says the Romney Intelligencer,) who is something of an amateur naturalist, and has for years taken great delight in studying the habits of insects, birds, beasts, &c., informs the Register of that place that he has noticed for several years past that the Martins invariably leave us on the 8th, 9th and 10th of August. This year they remained until the 19th of August. He predicts from this, that we will have a late fall and that farmers need not be afraid that the frost will hurt their corn. On the other hand, the most confident predictions are made, from other signs, that we are to have early frosts.

The New York Commercial says that there seems to be a good disposition in England to meet the call of the Atlantic Telegraph Company, for the additional capital requisite for the renewed experiment of submarine telegraph communication between that country and the United States. The Company have made the price per share five pounds sterling. The former shares were one thousand pounds; and we believe each share will hereafter be entitled to a vote at the annual meeting.

The Dayton (Ohio) Empire says that Mr. Henry H. Worman, of that city, on Thursday last, received a letter from his father, who resides in Daemne, Germany, and who has reached the great age of one hundred and fourteen years. The centenarian writes a neat, legible, steady hand, and is able to wait upon himself and perform light labor.

Judge Sears, of the Third Judicial District of Iowa, has decided in a suit instituted on a promissory note endorsed to the Bank of Tekama, Nebraska Territory, that all incorporated Banks in that Territory are illegal, and all business transacted by them as corporations, is in violation of law. The decision is given under the act of Congress of 1856.

Farmville, and on the 21st of September, are proposed as the place and time for holding a nominating convention in the Petersburg Congressional District. Messrs. H. L. Hopkins and R. A. Pryor are the candidates for the nomination. Col. T. F. Goode is a candidate irrespective of a convention.

Captain Jesse Vickers, an old citizen of Baltimore, died on Tuesday. He was between sixty and seventy years of age. Captain Vickers was recently a captain of the police at the eastern station, and at the time of his death held a position in the collector's office.

Henry J. P. Jones, of Rockingham county, Va., who was en route for Kansas, made the acquaintance of two men in Cincinnati last Friday, who succeeded in robbing him of \$1,600 and his gold watch. One of the men was subsequently arrested.

The Opposition Convention. The New York correspondent of the National Intelligencer says the determination of the Whigs and Conservatives of Virginia to hold a State Convention for preliminary consultation with a National Convention to follow in the early part of the next summer, meets the approbation of sound thinking. The Convention need erect no ambiguous platform, nor need they take ultra ground in regard to the subject of slavery. Their mission is to rebuke and put down ultraism in all its forms. They have the authority of the Hon. Alexander H. Stephens for saying that the slavery question is virtually settled. It has heretofore been the hobby of extremists to frighten and deceive weak-minded people. The Republicans may talk of an "irrepressible conflict between freedom and slavery," and the Democrats may rant about the danger of having an Abolitionist President, and disunion as a consequence, but the masses of the people are beginning to discover that these ultra-phrases are only used for effect at elections, to promote the object of aspirants. Let the Opposition present two reliable statesmen as their candidates, and let the babblers about abolition and disunion rave as much as they please. The Constitution of the United States (as interpreted by its framers) is platform enough for honest men, and the Union cannot be dissolved by intemperate politicians.

The Effect of the Aurora Borealis. NEW YORK, August 30.—The Superintendent of the Canadian Telegraph Company's lines, telegraphs as follows, in relation to the effect of the Aurora Borealis last night: "I never, in an experience of fifteen years, in working telegraph lines, witnessed anything like the extraordinary effect of the Aurora Borealis, between Quebec and Father Point, last night. The line was in most perfect order, and well skilled operators worked incessantly from eight o'clock last evening until ten o'clock this morning, to get over in an intelligible form about four hundred words of the report per steamer Indian, for the press, and at the latter hour, so completely were the wires under the influence of the Aurora Borealis, that it was found utterly impossible to communicate between the telegraph stations, and the line had to be closed." The same difficulty prevailed as far south as Washington.

Political. The Marshall (Miss.) Democrat nominates the Hon. Albert G. Brown as the Democratic candidate for the next Presidency. The Lancaster (Penn.) Enquirer nominates the Hon. Stephen A. Douglas as the candidate of the Democracy for the Presidency in 1860. A convention of the Democracy of New Jersey was held at Trenton on the 24th ult., and unanimously voted to present to the Charleston Convention the name of Hon. William C. Alexander, as a suitable Democratic candidate for the Vice Presidency in 1860.

Shucks. We invite the attention of agriculturalists to the advertisement of Mr. G. B. Stacy, in today's Whig. He desires to purchase large quantities of shucks, to be used in the manufacture of mattresses, and offers inducements to farmers who may have them to dispose of, which we think will prove worthy of their attention. Until within the last few years, shucks have been used principally for farmers that it is more profitable to sell them and use other forage, we may expect to hear of large shipments of corn leaves from the Old Dominion.—Rich. Whig.

A Novel Possession. Mr. Merrian, in a letter to the Daily Times, says that he "once obtained a piece of the auroral light, which he preserved," and that it was composed of threads, like the silken warp of a web. Mr. M. does not say whether he still possesses that remarkable specimen of what we think will prove worthy of the skies. It is still in his cabinet, no wonder that he is enlightened beyond most men, and if the piece was of sufficient length and breadth, might he not exhibit it nightly on Brooklyn Heights.—N. Y. Com.

The stories circulated in Havana, and sent over by the "Cuban patriots" there, to the "Cuban patriots" in this country, relative to the Captain General Concha, are stated to be untruthful and untrue, and set at rest by political objects. These Cuban "patriots" there and here, appear to be very unscrupulous personages.

THREE DAYS LATER FROM EUROPE.

Arrival of the Steamer Jason.

St. Johns, August 30.—The steamer Jason, from Galway, with dates to Saturday, the 20th, arrived here this afternoon.

The news is not important. Nothing further has transpired in reference to the Zurich Conference.

The Empress Eugenie was said to be en route.

The National Assembly of Tuscany had declared that the dynasty must not be recalled. The Modern National Assembly was also taking strong grounds for national liberty.

M. Formica had accepted the dictatorship of Parma.

The work on the fortifications at Koenigsberg, which was suspended at the announcement of peace, has been vigorously resumed.

Cardinal Antonelli had resigned the presidency of the Council of Rome.

The Calcutta mail of the 10th of July had arrived. The King of Oude had been released.

The King of Prussia had rallied at last accounts, and it was expected he would linger on for some time.

Cardinal Antonelli, in resigning the presidency of the Council, does not resign the presidency of the Council of State.

Five thousand European troops at Calcutta had accepted their discharge.

The Zurich Conference, according to the latest accounts, was doing nothing.

The steamship Great Eastern would leave on the 3d of September, on her trial trip.

Political affairs in England a grand demonstration from his schedule constituents.

The amnesty extended by the Emperor of France, had created surprise, but gave general satisfaction. Louis Blanc had refused to accept it.

London, Saturday noon.—The Austrian plenipotentiary announced at the Zurich banquet that he had strong hopes of the early success of the conference.

The Tuscan Assembly received with great enthusiasm the proposition to banish forever the House of Hapsburg and Lorraine.

Outraged rumors were received from Paris that General Bismarck and Niel had not been confirmed as senators.

The Paris Bourse on Friday, closed firm. COMMERCIAL.—LIVERPOOL COTTON MARKET.—Sales of the week 64,000 bales, including 3,000 bales to speculators, and 4,000 bales for export.

All qualities have slightly declined in price. The market closed dull on Friday, with sales of 7,000 bales, including 1,000 bales for speculation and export. Fair Orleans, 8d, middling, 7d, Mobile 6d, 13-16d. Stock in port, 62,000 bales, of which 387,000 bales are American.

Manchester advices are unfavorable, and previous quotations are barely maintained. The cotton market is dull, and the price of raw cotton is declining. Flour is quiet, at 10s 6d 11s 3d. Wheat is firm, and all qualities of French wheat are slightly advanced. Western red, 7s 6d 7s 9d; white, 8s 6d 8s 9d. Corn is declining, tendency holders offer freely, but showing no disposition to press sales. Mixed and yellow, 5s 6d 5s 9d; white, 7s 6d 7s 9d. Breadstuffs closed steady. Sugar is dull, and the price of raw sugar is declining. Lower grades slightly. Rice steady.

AMERICAN SECURITIES.—The market for American securities generally, closed unchanged. MONEY MARKET.—The money market is slightly easier. Consols 95 1/2 95 3/4 for money and accounts.

THE LATEST.—LIVERPOOL, Saturday noon.—Cotton closed dull. Sales today estimated at 4,000 bales. Breadstuffs closed quiet. Wheat is firm. Provisions generally close very dull.

NEW BEDFORD, August 30.—Early this morning, a fire broke out in the new large Railroad Depot at Fair Haven, which was totally destroyed. The engines, passenger cars, and the ferry boats, belonging to the Railroad Company, were fortunately saved. The loss is about ten thousand dollars, which is mostly insured.

MANCHESTER, N. H., August 30.—The Amoskeag Veterans and other citizens, at a public meeting to-day, appointed a committee to the State to nominate General Taylor at Philadelphia, and subsequently a preacher. He inherited from his ancestry an antipathy to Mr. Clay, and most effectively used it in 1848. In 1850, he re-united with the Presbyterian Church. His manners were always eccentric, and he was characterized by a peculiar idiosyncrasy of his family. A brother, the late Col. McClung, committed suicide, and a talented sister was insane.

Still his genius was of the finest order. Had his mind been well balanced, he would have been one of the foremost men of the nation.—Louisville Dem., Aug. 25th.

SINGULAR ACCIDENT TO A BELLE.—A young girl, residing on Eighth street, who has a host of admirers, and by most of her acquaintances is considerably envied for her facial beauty, was yesterday evening, for about half an hour before last met with an accident which, in all probability, destroyed her eyes and made almost hideous the face which before was nearly divine.

She has for some time past been in the habit of bathing herself just before retiring, with a mixture of camphene and salt, generally known to be quite excellent as a method by which to preserve the complexion and make the skin clear and smooth. During her customary nightly ablution on Tuesday, the camphene took fire from a lamp burning upon her toilette table, and blistered her face, neck, shoulders and bosom, in a horrible manner.

Her injuries, in consequence of the presence of the salt which had been mixed with the liquid she used, are not as dangerous as they would otherwise have been, still they are very painful, and have given rise to so many and such various expressions of sympathy and tenderness from her friends, that she is said to bear her suffering with the greatest fortitude. Her eyes, however, are so badly burnt that it is feared she will entirely lose one at least; but although there is a possibility of saving both of them, the roses upon her cheeks by the fiery fingers of flame, have already faded forever.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

DISGRACEFUL SCENE IN A CHURCH.—On Sunday, another disturbance took place in the Parish Church of St. George-in-the-East, of which the Rev. Bryan King is rector.—For some time past, as is well known, a feeling of dissatisfaction has existed among the parishioners, in consequence of the Fructification of the rector; and for several Sundays lately a number of persons have regularly hissed and hooted him and his Curate, both going in and leaving the church with his choristers. On Sunday afternoon, when the service was finished, and the choristers were leaving the church, they met some persons in the lobby with their hats on, and, on passing them to go into the vestry to unrobe, they attempted to knock their hats off. The choristers then struck some person, when a fearful disturbance took place. The crowd attempted to pull the choristers' surplices off; many blows were exchanged between the infuriated parties; hats were knocked off; groans, wailings, and hisses were heard, &c., &c., and a fearful confusion took place. Mr. Charles Henry Thompson, who officiated at the building at this time, insisted on the rector immediately ordering his choristers to retire into the vestry, which was done. When the rector and his choristers left to go to the rectory, they were again met with deafening groans, yells, &c., which continued until they took shelter in the rectory.—Manchester (England) Guardian, August 12.

Old Point Comfort, &c.

[Correspondence of the Richmond Dispatch.]

OLD POINT, Aug. 29, 1859.—The Board appointed by the Secretary of War for the inspection and trial of the various rifle-cannons that had been sent to Old Point, have been inactive for several days, but will resume their labors in three or four days. Col. Wheat's new breech-loading rifle-cannon, which weighs several tons, is now being mounted on a carriage, at the break-water, near the Light-House, and will be the next gun to receive attention. One of these guns, much smaller than this one, however, has already been tried by the officers, with considerable satisfaction. Col. Wheat, himself, undertook to operate with it on one occasion, in the absence of the Board, and getting a ball jammed in it by some means, fired and burst it. The one now being mounted, however, looks as if it would stand any kind of usage.

The Ordnance Department are engaged in testing the qualities and strength of three guns, two of which are from Richmond, and the other from West Point. One of the Richmond guns is from the Tredgrew Works, and one other from Remond Arsenal. One thousand shots have been fired from one, with a sixteen-pound charge of powder at each shot. Thus we see that sixteen thousand pounds of powder have been used in testing the quality of iron, of which this gun is composed; the other gun has had about eight hundred shots with the same charge of powder, and has only two hundred more to pass the test. Balls are used in each charge, which are fired into a sand bank, and afterwards dug out and used over and over again.

It is a gratifying fact, that the guns made of Virginia iron have stood the severest tests, and stand higher with the Ordnance Board than any other which have been subjected to their inspection. This is no doubt owing to the fact that the quality of the iron is superior, coupled with the fact that the manufacturers in Richmond understand casting guns better than any one else.

The operations on the Rip-Raps are progressing slowly, and from present appearances it will take fully twenty years to complete Fort Calhoun. There are sixty or seventy men at work, which is probably as large a force as could be worked in that limited space to advantage.

The stone contractor for stone, having found that he had taken the contract too low, has been released by the Secretary of War, and a simple engagement now exists with a gentleman in the upper part of the State for the supply of stone. This gentleman has sublet a portion of the job, and this fact accounts for another fact—that a part of the stone comes from Petersburg, and a part from Richmond.

The Crany Island light-house is to be superceded by a screw-pile light-house, similar to those now in use in James river. The piles are already down, and the frame braced, and a week or two more will find this light shining out from the top of a neat substantial house.

The large building close by the hotel, which is being built for the Ordnance Department, is nearly done, and hands are now engaged in covering the roof. This, we learn, is to be a workshop, and is to take the place of the armory which was burned in the garrison some years ago.

The Late Rev. John A. McClung.

From all the facts and publications concerning the recent death, by drowning, of the Rev. John A. McClung, we are led to infer that he came to his death by suicide. That he wandered away from his hotel at Niagara, and was absent several days, is sufficient proof that he was non compos mentis. We observed his career for a number of years, and in all that time were impressed more with the brilliant and erratic genius of the man, than with anything profound about his intellectual character.

He was, at different times, first, a prominent Presbyterian clergyman; second, an avowed infidel, and the author of a work of romance of exceeding genius, but disgraced by the utmost profanity; third, a lawyer of fine attainments and large practice; fourth, an advocate of emancipation, then a delegate from the State to nominate General Taylor at Philadelphia, and subsequently a preacher. He inherited from his ancestry an antipathy to Mr. Clay, and most effectively used it in 1848. In 1850, he re-united with the Presbyterian Church. His manners were always eccentric, and he was characterized by a peculiar idiosyncrasy of his family. A brother, the late Col. McClung, committed suicide, and a talented sister was insane.

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Camp Meetings.

Our Methodist friends have been having a fine time of it in Camp Meeting, during the latter days of pleasant summer weather, beneath the grateful "shade of the green-wood tree."

Camp Meetings, we believe, are peculiar to the United States. There is nothing assimilating to them in Europe. The near approach that has ever been made to these gatherings, were the secret meetings for religious worship of the Covenanters among the heather in the mountainous regions of Scotland.

The origin of camp meetings in this country, was a physical and religious necessity. Sparsely settled as it was, and still is, in by far the largest portion, the opportunities of religious instruction and worship were few and far between. A population living in log cabins and other rude abodes, scores of miles apart, could not well be brought under ministerial supervision, in the ordinary way. It was, therefore, necessary to resort to extraordinary means to bring the Gospel to a people who could not go to the Gospel. Accordingly, the summer season was selected, in which a grand gathering would be organized in some central locality, where the Word would be preached, and prayers made by the Ministers, within a radius of many hundred miles. The religious instruction thus conveyed, was precious to such as "care for these things," as, with exceptions, that was all they would receive for twelve months. There can be no doubt, that some evil was, and still is mixed up with the religious feature of the arrangement—for what human institution is unmixt with evil? It is a mooted point, whether in the present comparatively thickly settled condition of such States as New York, and the facilities offered for religious instruction and worship in innumerable churches, Camp Meetings are any longer necessary. We shall not discuss that question. But, setting aside the religious phase of the question, there can be no two opinions as to the influence of these gatherings, in a sanitary point of view; to spend a short time under canvas, out in the country, during the summer, promotes health, while the Camp Meeting has the additional recommendation of cheerfulness. It is, to our mind, a far better way of ruralizing than to spend night after night, in crowded and heated ball rooms, at Saratoga, Cape May, Newport, and other places, merely because such a custom is prescribed by fashion.—N. Y. Express.

The Atmospheric Phenomenon.

The New York Post notices the appearance of the Heavens on Sunday night at length.—We quote:

"The ruby crown, gemmed and fringed by sparkling stars, retained its proud position in the zenith, and the tremulous waves of light floated and quivered downwards like some imperial train waved by the cool night winds. At times it suggested a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, bowed at the wrist with a bracelet of ruby and diamond, with the open palm held as if in benediction over the earth, while the fingers of light reached almost to the distant horizon."

Soon, as Everett has beautifully spoken of a somewhat similar scene, "the hands of angels" shifted the glorious scenery of the heavens. The mass of apparent red cloud to the East moved away Southward, gradually fading, while the corresponding red cloud on the West seemed to sink into a chaos of dark cloud, that, with a fringe of blue, skirted the Western horizon. While these changes were taking place in the East and West, the wondrous crown above, moved a few degrees and then gradually faded. For about half an hour these remarkable changes took place, and then the lights gradually disappeared. In a short time, however, they were resumed. Sheets of the same white luminous cloud again illuminated the sky, producing about the same amount of light as the full moon, and the night became almost as day.

It must have been much like those described by Dr. Kane, Bayard Taylor, and other Northern travellers. Of the extent of the phenomena we have some idea, from the fact that the telegraphic wires were affected by it in every direction.

At one time it bore a striking resemblance to an eagle, and then the slightest, almost imperceptible change, transformed it into a tortoise. Then again it seemed to sweep across the heavens, presenting the appearance of a confused procession of beings clad in ghostly shrouds, and reminding one of the diabolical and utterly ruinous, and in an hour these remarkable changes took place, and then the lights gradually disappeared.

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The Rope Walking Mania—Accidents. All the clothes-lines, tow-lines, and other lines in town, have failed to supply the demand of "Young America" in their efforts to become DeLaves and Blondins. On iron fences, the outer railings of canal bridges, and other elevations of a similar nature are daily to be seen boys, and sometimes girls engaged in rope walking. As a consequence of these exploits, we shall doubtless be called upon to chronicle from day to day a bountiful harvest for the surgeons. There were only two arms broken yesterday. A son of Hubbard J. Jones while walking a rope some four feet from the ground, lost his balance and in falling his arm struck the rope, and by reason of the weight of his body it was broken a little above the wrist. A son of James Wagstaff, New Maine street, aged about eight years, while walking the fence of his father's yard, fell off and broke one of his arms in the operation.—Rochester Union.

Hogs and Corn. In our recent